

Neighborhood Watch

September - December 2013

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683

Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:

714-898-3315

Extensions:

3212 Dispatch
3220 Traffic Division
3218 Records Bureau

Business Hours:

Monday-Saturday
7am to 7pm

Website:

www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police

AREA COMMAND:

WEST

Cmdr. Vu
714-548-3725

EAST

Cmdr. Schoonmaker
714-548-3707



Safety While Holiday Shopping

By: Cpl. Eddie Esqueda

The holiday season is upon us and local residents and visitors have begun to flock to the shopping centers and malls. Also joining these shoppers are criminals looking to take advantage of even the smallest opportunity. Every year it happens, even with local law enforcement ramping-up patrols and increasing visibility in shopping centers. There are many factors that can compromise safety with the late night store hours, crowded conditions, and tons of shopping bags. Shoppers need to use common sense and some vigilance to deter criminals who are ready to take advantage of shoppers who have let down their guard. Some common sense methods can keep the criminals away and protect shoppers.

Here are some safety tips that you should consider when visiting shopping centers or malls:

Don't carry lots of cash. Try using a credit card/ATM card when making purchases. If you do use cash, do not flash it around because there may be someone scanning for that.

Be aware of your surroundings. Be aware of suspicious people

loitering around a parking lot or near you inside the store. Some of the common crimes that occur are purse snatches and vehicle burglaries. If you are shopping alone, ask a store employee or security to escort you to your vehicle.

Try the buddy system. Take a friend or relative with you and do your shopping together. You are less likely to be a target if you are not alone.

Park in well-lit areas. Most vehicle burglaries occur in dark or dimly lit parking lots. When leaving the stores, have your keys in your hand and ready to use to avoid the extra time it takes when searching for them in a purse. Place your shopping bags in the trunk where they won't be visible, or if you do not have a trunk try to cover them inside your vehicle. Also, do not bring purchases out to your vehicle and return to the store.

Common sense should be practiced by all shoppers throughout the year, but with the increase in holiday shopping and associated criminal element waiting to prey, the number of incidents at the malls and shopping cen-

this issue

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ters spikes each year in late November and December. So, to all the holiday shoppers don't get caught up with the holiday hustle, use your common sense and don't let your guard down. Try these simple safety tips to help protect yourself. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Hide it!

Lock it!

Take it!



WPD Social Networking

By Sgt. Cameron Knauerhaze

We are always looking for ways to engage our community. We are seeing great results with the use of Facebook and Twitter. Our followers are able to see the day-to-day happenings at WPD and communicate with us within this medium. So far, We have over 2100 followers on Facebook and about 800 on Twitter. To us, this means positive engagement of people looking to connect with our organization. Our web analytics show that our followers love our photos. Who knows, maybe you will see us on Instagram soon. Stay tuned.

WPD Seeks Volunteers

By Officer Rachel Archambault

The Volunteers in Policing program is made up of dedicated citizens who have a desire to assist the police department in continuing to make Westminster a special and safe place to live and work. The program offers a variety of opportunities in which volunteers can find satisfaction in assisting the police and the citizens of Westminster.

Who Qualifies?

- Volunteers should have a G.E.D. or high school diploma.
- Volunteers must pass a background investigation
- Volunteers that drive a department vehicle must have a valid CA driver license.
- A medical clearance from an attending physician stating that they are able perform duties of a volunteer

What are we looking for?

Volunteers are asked to donate a minimum of 16 hours per month to support the services of the police department. Volunteers will be utilized in a variety of different assignments, community events, fleet maintenance, data entry and much more. WPD will provide training and uniforms to all police volunteers.

For more information, please call the volunteer coordinator at 714-548-3771.



City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:
714-548-3201

Chamber of Commerce:
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-898-3311

Code Enforcement:
714-893-3311

Fair Housing Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-895-2876

**Midway City
Sanitary District:**
714-893-3553

Health Department:
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-548-3732

**Westminster
Senior Center:**
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

How do I Report a Crime in Westminster?

By: Ashley Martin

By calling 9-1-1

It is important to understand that every call is important, but not every call is life-threatening. Calling 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. Emergencies include crimes in progress (robbery, residential burglary, domestic violence, etc.), situations in which people or property are at risk (fire, down electrical wires, traffic hazards, injury traffic collisions, etc.), and medical emergencies (heart attack, seizure, choking, etc.). When calling 9-1-1 remain calm and speak clearly. Listen to what the dispatcher is asking and provide only pertinent information, for example:

What is the location of the emergency?
(address, name of location, or cross streets).

What happened?

When did it happen?

Were any weapons involved?

What did the suspect look like: race, gender, height, weight, and clothing?

Is the suspect still there? If not, which direction did they go?

Suspect vehicle description: color, make, model, license plate?

Dispatchers relay pertinent information to responding officers out in the field as they are responding to calls. It is imperative for the safety of the officers, citizens, and community that information provided during an emergency is accurate. Filing a false emergency report is illegal.

By Calling the Dispatch or Seven-Digit Emergency Line (Available 24 Hours)

Non-emergency reports, calls for service, or questions regarding police matters are handled by calling the WPD Dispatch Line or the Seven Digit Emergency Line.

Dispatch Line: (714) 548-3212

Seven-Digit Emergency Line: (714) 897-2511

By Visiting Police Headquarters

A desk officer is available during lobby hours to take crime reports and answer questions. Westminster PD takes reports for crimes or incidents

By Completing an Online Crime Report

Non-emergency crime reports can be submitted using our Online Police Citizen Reporting System following the link below. Certain restrictions limit the type of crimes that can be submitted online. Advantages of using online reporting include not waiting in lines, obtaining a case or incident number quickly, and the ability to print a copy of the police report for free. The desk officer reviews online reports and contacts citizens by telephone or e-mail if further information is needed to complete our investigation. Please make sure to turn off your pop-up blocking software before filing the report. At this time, there are no alternative languages besides English offered for the system.

Online Police Citizen Reporting System Link:

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=8536>

Thank you, and remember the best way to prevent crime in Westminster is through the tips and watchful eye of our community.



REMINDER

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:
<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

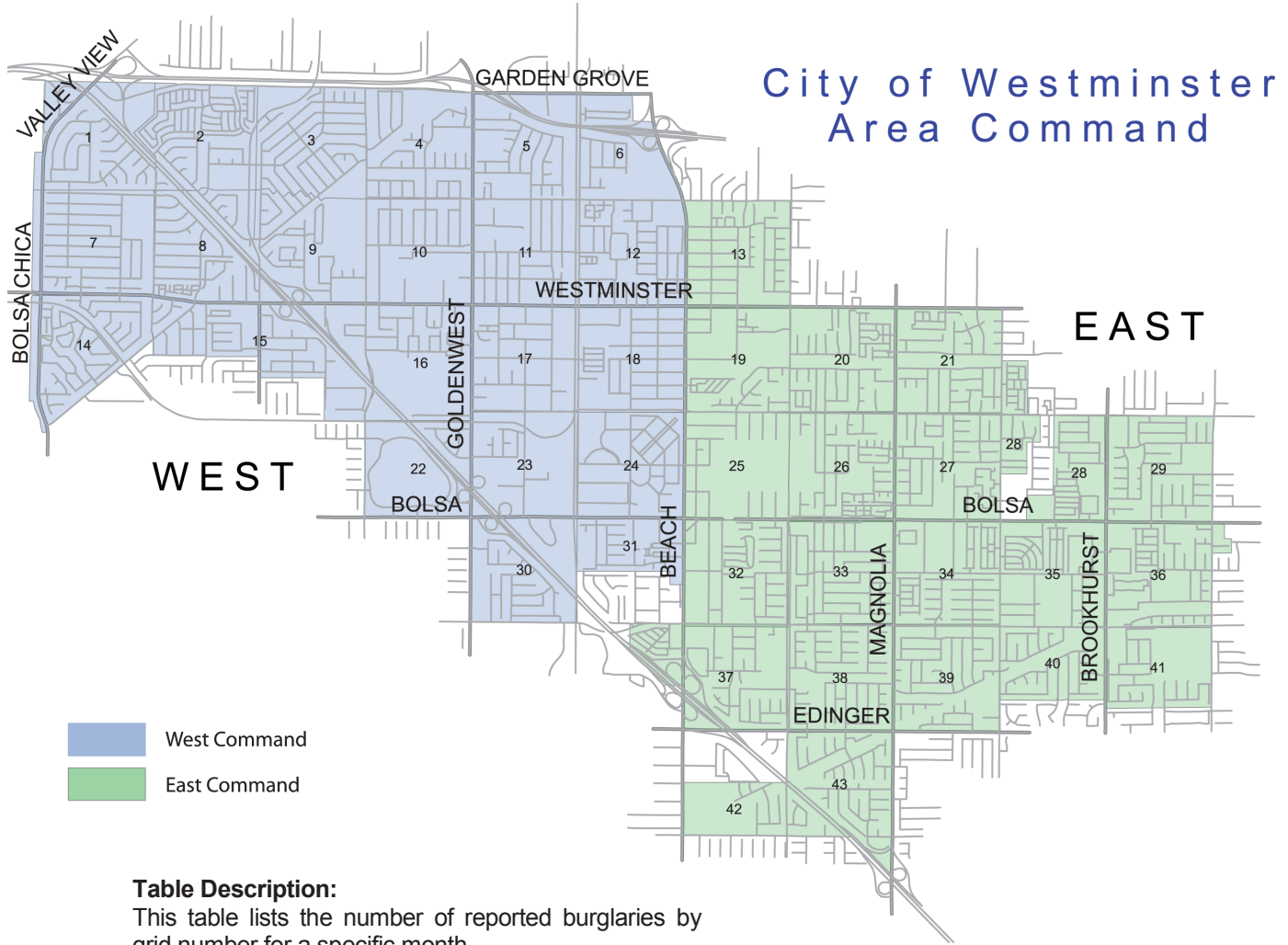


Table Description:

This table lists the number of reported burglaries by grid number for a specific month.

AREA	SEP	OCT	NOV	AREA	SEP	OCT	NOV	AREA	SEP	OCT	NOV
1	2	0	1	16	0	0	0	31	1	0	1
2	0	1	1	17	1	0	0	32	0	2	0
3	2	0	0	18	2	0	0	33	0	2	1
4	0	1	0	19	1	0	0	34	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	20	0	1	0	35	2	2	0
6	0	0	0	21	1	2	0	36	1	0	0
7	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	37	0	3	0
8	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	38	0	2	1
9	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	39	0	1	0
10	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	40	1	0	0
11	2	0	2	26	2	0	0	41	0	0	0
12	2	0	0	27	1	1	1	42	0	0	0
13	1	1	0	28	0	1	0	43	0	0	0
14	0	1	0	29	0	0	1	Totals	22	22	10
15	0	1	1	30	0	0	0				



CrimeReports is a free online service. Anyone can access and review this website to gain knowledge of the type of crime trends occurring in their community. <http://www.crimereports.com>